MINUTES FOR NAPRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOV 16TH

I. Meeting was called to order by Ken, N7IPB, at 7:14 PM. Others in attendance were Dennis - KB7DZ, Steve - N8GNJ, Peter - WA7FUS, Don - N7NKJ, Terry - W6RY, Conrad - N7DUO, and John - KA7TTY.

II. Treasurer, Peter, WA7FUS, reported a balance of $1128.88. Secretary read minutes of the October 17th Board meeeting and they were approved as corrected.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. SEAW - is working fine.

B. SEA - is having a problem where it at times will send very long packets. It was felt by some of those in attendance that the problem may stem from the node being too courteous, backing off when the frequency gets busy, building itself a large backlog of packets and finally dumping it all one after the other. Scott, N7FSP, Tech VP, was given a PK-80 by Ken, N7IPB at the last general meeting. It was to be modified and put into service at SEA if it seemed necessary. Scott and Steve, N7HFZ, are currently looking into the problem and we expect it will be taken care of soon.

C. 440 Repeater - Bob, KD7NM, has the repeater package for tuning. If Bob is not able to get to it soon, we may want to consider other help. Larry, WB7USL, had indicated that Mark, KF7II, from the BEARS, was working on many others of the 440 radios and we might consider a radio work party with us and others from the BEARS working over a mess of radios all at once. Steve, N8GNJ, has a list of NAPRA volunteers who had indicated their willingness to help. Steve will get the list to Ken.

The secretary will look into a letter to the BEARS, formally asking for 8-10 additional 440 radios for our repeater project.

Steve, N8GNJ, indicated he had seen an ad from C.W. Wolf in Montana offering for sale 2M versions of the Motorola Micor radios. These might be considered for future installation at node sites.

D. Constitution Changes - Steve, N8GNJ, indicated he had found the marked up copy he had been given by Dennis, KB7DZ. Steve will publish the proposed changes in the next Zero Retries (which is expected out soon).

E. 9600 Baud Modems - One is complete and the other is in work. Steve, N8GNJ, expects to start testing soon.

F. Steve, N8GNJ, had a number of items to bring up:

1. Proofs of the new Information Sheet were handed out for review. Board members were asked to review it and send comments to Steve in the next couple weeks. It is about time to go for another printing.

2. Zero Retries - Steve will be starting a new job at work and is offering the job of editor of Zero Retries to anyone who is interested. He is willing to continue, but cannot promise to be any better at getting it out on time in the future. There will be an article to this effect in the next issue.

3. Regular Columns from the Board Members - Steve suggested that each Board Member commit to writing a short article for each issue of Zero Retries. The President could discuss issues facing NAPRA and make statements about the

direction we are heading; Tech VP could give status of the PNW AMPRNET and status of ongoing NAPRA projects; Exec VP could write about future General Meeting programs; Secretary could give a brief report on NAPRA activities (WWARA, conferences, and notable meeting events); Treasurer could give a statement of NAPRA's current finances and major expenditures. Deadlines for the 4 quarterly issues are: Winter - January 12, Spring - April 13, Summer - July 13, and Fall - October 12.

There was a lot of discussion of this and it was agreed that it sounded like a good idea to start with the Winter issue.

4. Membership Coordinator - Steve suggested that NAPRA could use a non Board member Membership Coordinator to contact new members with an information packet including maps, recent Zero Retries, information sheet, and "Introduction to Packet Radio" package. Maintain a list of members and their special skills and make information available via Packet Radio Ragchew and BBS Bulletins. The Board agreed. Peter, WA7FUS, moved that we create a Membership Services Committee whose responsibility it is to provide the above service to the membership, and that Steve, N8GNJ, be appointed chairman of that committee. Dennis, KB7DZ, seconded the motion and it was passed.

5. Logo - About a year ago it was suggested that NAPRA develop a logo, but nothing was ever done. It was suggested that we re-open the idea and request suggestions from the membership.

6. Larry, WB7USL, has a 440 repeater which is not on the air. It was agreed that we should suggest that he put it on the air for use in testing NAPRA's 440 repeater. John, KA7TTY, will suggest it to him.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Conrad, N7DUO, is submitting a sheet for coordination of his BBS with the addition of a Node. He has been operating for about the past year on 144.93 MHz and has only on rare occations heard Astoria and never any other Nodes on that frequency. He also intends on setting up a Node and is interested in intertying with the NAPRA System for mail forwarding. He is located in the Lake Hills area of Bellevue and is running 50 watts. He has users from Everett to South Tacoma with a digi N7NRU located on Goat Hill (near Darigold between Rainier and ML King Way) in Seattle. He was asked to complete the form and did so. It was accepted by the Secretary, John, KA7TTY, for forwarding to Scott, N7FSP, the Tech VP.

B. John, KA7TTY, indicated that Scott, N7FSP, was still waiting for the names of the BN contacts for the Fiberoptic link both here and in Bozeman. Larry, WB7USL, and Russ, N7HGE (from the BEARS) should be able to provide the needed information. John will convey the info to Scott.

C. Network Forum - We are still looking at March 23, or March 16 dates. Dennis, KB7DZ, was asked to procede with preparations. He needs to know that the Rec Center in Kent is available. John, KA7TTY, will contact Larry and get an answer to Dennis.

D. Network Proposal from Scott, N7FSP - Don, N7NKJ, spoke for Scott. He indicated concern with the current 440 repeater project, that access to the site could be a problem and also, that the repeater becomes the weak single point where failure could break down the system.

Ken, N7IPB, indicated that access should not be a problem. With a phone call, access could be provided almost everyday up until midnight. Dennis pointed out that with the present simplex backbone there were several key stations where

failure would break down the system.

It was pointed out that in the initial phases, the present 220.95 MHz backbone would still be in place with path quality set low so the repeater will be primary path. Steve, N8GNJ, stated that there were some good points in Scott's proposal and maybe we could incorporate some of both in an overall plan. Don, N7NKJ, indicated that he was not in favor of a single hub network. It was mentioned that Dick, N7HHU, at ELN, was working on a 440 path to Seattle.

After much further discussion, the following plan was developed:

1. Complete work on the 440 repeater package, get it installed at the Hays site and tested.
2. Install 440 transeivers tied into the nodes at SEA and SEAW. Consider possibility of 440 at ALKI and BELL (probable alias of N7DUO) for low elevation testing of the repeater.
3. Suggest moving SEA and ELN off 220.95 MHz to 220.97 MHz.
4. Incourage the development of other 440 node clusters (north and south; Vancouver B.C. may be there already) tied together with 220 links, but not the end to end backbone we now have.
5. Change repeater to 9600 baud.
6. Change the TNC at the repeater to an IP switch to links on 220, and maybe add low level 2M user port into switch.
7. Replace dual TNCs (and NETROM) at SEA and SEAW with Data Engines running NOS-in-a-box.

V. Board members were asked to consider changing Board Meeting to morning of General Meeting day. Maybe a Breakfast meeting at the Omni.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 10:39 PM.

John - KA7TTY
Secretary